

16th London to Brighton Walk 7th Sep 1934

The "Brighton" of 1934 will not rank with some of the immortal "Brightons" of previous years. There are a number of reasons for this: the poor entry of only 83, the lack of an outstanding personality such as 'Green or Lloyd Johnson and the weather, hot, and with an occasional head wind. The effect of the latter can best be judged from a comparison of the number of men who beat 9.30 this year, namely, 16, with the three previous years, the figures being 42 in 1931, 24 in 1932 and 21 in 1933. The number of finishers fifty five was also the lowest for many years, partly explained, of course, by the entry. Appropriately enough, Whitlock was the winner after two successive seconds. True, he did not equal his time of 8.12.20 when finishing second in Ludlow's record year, but to return 8.17.23 on a day reminiscent of the 1928 " heat-wave " year was a very fine performance indeed. He is still only 31 years of age, and, in a more favourable year might be expected to trouble the record. He walked a steady race throughout, and, having once disposed of Gum, his only serious challenger, was never in danger of being caught.

From a Club point of view, the result was anything but satisfactory; of the men on whom we were depending, only Horton and to a lesser degree, Prior, walked up to their best form. Hammond, suffering from an injured knee, gave it best at about 20 miles, and Etherington, after raising our hopes by steady walking as far as Redhill, where he was in 6th position and close to the leader, puffed right out, and retired at Crawley. The general opinion in his case is that he was overtrained and stale, and when one considers that he has had nearly a year of strenuous racing, there can be no doubt that this theory is correct. Hard luck, Stan, and a better journey next time. Scott, also, did not finish in his usual forward position, due no doubt to the serious illness he contracted earlier in the year.

Still, if we have no cause for self congratulations on the team result, we certainly have on the individual result! In finishing second Stan Horton surpassed even our fondest hopes, -although we fully expected him to be in the first half-dozen. He raced consistently throughout ; from Horley onwards he steadily pulled back the men in front of him, and eventually took second position between Bolney and Albourne Green. In winning the "Dithy" Cup for the third successive occasion he emulates his father, who was the only other member of the Club to perform this feat. Incidentally he is the fastest "Dithy" Cup holder since Payne won it in 1911.

Running through the performances of the rest of our representatives, Prior did will to finish second for the Club, although his time was ten minutes outside his best; Wilmot walked his usual consistent race, Milne and Reynolds had another of their famous " scraps," with the result in Bob's favour, and Lock achieved a minor ambition in beating 10.30.

Christie-Murray, whose 22 tender years were exposed to the blast of his first Brighton, should have great cause for satisfaction in getting home inside ten hours. His remark after the race of "Thank Heavens ! I've only got another thirty-eight to do," shows that he, for one, possesses that spirit without which no Brighton should be approached.

Results:

Position	Initial	Initial	Surname	Club	Hour	Min	Sec
1	H.	H.	Whitlock	Metropolitan W.C.	8	17	23
2	S.	E.	Horton	S.W.C.	8	24	16
3	F.	E.	Benfiley	Belgrave H.	8	28	34
4	D.		Gum	Essex Beagles	8	35	43
5	H.	A.	Cashmore	Leicester W.C.	8	42	24
6	R.		Martin	Belgrave H.	8	48	35
7	J.	F.	Henderson	Worthing D. H.	8	49	57
8	S.	F.	Abel	Essex Beagles	9	7	10
9	M.		Chatfield	Worthing D. H.	9	7	35

10	P.	W.	Collier	London Vid.	9	12	11
11	W.	F.	Ashwell	London Vid.	9	18	5
12	A.	J.	Slater	Sussey W.A.C.	9	24	2
13	H.	S.	Bassett	Surrey A.C.	9	27	24
14	A.	W.	Bellis	L.T. (T.C.)	9	28	43
15	H.	D.	Neilson	Poly. H.	9	29	36
16	J.		Prior	S.W.C.	9	29	36
17	S.	M.	Pauley	Poole W.	9	30	43
18	P.	N.	Khlopin	Belgrave H.	9	35	5
19	J.	W.	Gum	Essex Beagles	9	41	47
20	W.	J.	Harris	L.T. (T.C.)	9	43	2
21	L.	G.	Allen	Belgrave H.	9	43	17
22	E.	A.	Margetts	Poly. H.	9	44	18
23	G.	W.	Head	London Vid.	9	46	32
24	F.		Wilmot	S.W.C.	9	47	24
25	A.	R.	McKay	Poly. H.	9	53	13
26	L.	H.	Oldham	London Vid.	9	53	23
27	V.	J.	Pammenter	Poly. H.	9	54	59
28	R.	H.	Milne	S.W.C.	9	55	15
29	T.	C.	Reynolds	S.W.C.	9	55	37
30	D.	H.	Christie-Murray	S.W.C.	9	56	6
31	F.	G.	Fullalove	Essex Beagles	9	57	34
32	C.	A.	Wattam	Belgrave H.	10	0	3
33	W.	C.	Merrett	Poly. H.	10	0	30
34	L.	R.	Spooner	Cambridge H.	10	3	34
35	F.	R.	Scott	S.W.C.	10	6	15
36	E.	M.	Shipman	Bristol W.	10	14	42
37	W.	W.	Stevens	L.T. (T.C.)	10	18	21
38	H.		Sta'llard	Poly. H.	10	20	7
39	J.	W.	Lock	S.W.C.	10	22	8
40	G.	H.	Laurie	Belgrave H.	10	26	45
41	W.	P.	Everard	Essex Beagles	10	29	9
42	A.		Diggins	Ashcombe A.C.	10	32	57
43	B.	E.	Angell	L.T. (T.C.)	10	34	5
44	C.	A.	Hayes	L.T. (T.C.)	10	37	48
45	A.	D.	McSweeney	Highgate H.	10	38	41
46	F.	A.	Parsons	London Vid.	10	41	6
47	J.	E.	Pocock	Essex Beagles	10	43	50
48	J.	H.	Bullock	L.T. (T.C.)	10	47	16
49	S.		Atkinson	Unattached	10	52	54
50	H.		Barracrough	Wibsey Pk. H.	10	57	18
51	F.	N.	Atkinson	Norbury Police	10	59	10
52	L.	H.	Wilkins	Surrey A.C.	11	0	34
53	W.	T.	Tuck	Poly. H.	11	4	54
54	L.	L.	Hind	Highgate H.	11	12	14

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	Team Position Club	Points
1	Belgrave Harriers	29
2	Essex Beagles	40
3	Surrey Walking Club	46